

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-49 (Cancelled)

Claim 50 (Currently amended) A process for preparing a catalyst comprising at least one catalytic metal loaded on a hydrotalcite-based carrier material which has the following formula in its uncalcined form



wherein M^{2+} is at least one divalent metal; and M^{3+} is at least one trivalent metal;

A is an n -valent anion

n is 1 or 2,

c is 1 or 2,

and a and b are positive numbers, $a > b$; which process comprises:

- a) adding at least one catalytic metal salt or complex to the carrier material, of which the carrier material is ~~(at least partly) in, or is in, or at least partly~~ transformed to, the hydrotalcite phase during the metal addition step;
- b) followed by washing, and
- c) calcination.

Claim 51 (Currently amended) The process of claim 50, wherein the catalytic metal is at least one metal selected from Group VIII of the periodic table of elements.